

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 HA-05 /083 W

-----017233 081606Z /43

P R 081345Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9205

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 3148

LONDON ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV SOPN RH US UK

SUBJ: ZAMBIA: PRESIDENT KAUNDA PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 8.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KAUNDA SEPTEMBER 8 MET WITH PRESS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. POINTS COVERED ON DOMESTIC SCENE WERE A NEED FOR VIGILANCE IN ZAMBIA IN FACE OF RACIST WHITE SOUTHERN AFRICA THREATS; SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS TO UNIP CONSTITUTION; DEFENSE OF RIGHTS OF OTHERS TO OPPOSE HIM FOR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION; CAUTION THAT KAPWEPWE'S THREATS OF VIOLENCE WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED; AND PROMISE TO TIGHTEN UP LEADERSHIP CODE. ON INTERNATIONAL SUBJECTS KAUNDA ACCEPTED AS FACT THAT WILSON
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WAS AWARE OF OIL SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS BUT DID NOTHING. ZAMBIA HAS HARD INFORMATION THAT RHODESIA WILL ATTACK ZAMBIA; BRITISH WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH AN ATTACK. ZAMBIA HAD NO HAND IN SHOOTING DOWN RHODESIAN VISCOUNT; FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAD DONE SO. ZAMBIA HAS NO DESIRE TO INTERNATIONALIZE RHODESIAN CONFLICT BUT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CALL FOR OUT-SIDE SUPPORT. AT LAST WEEKEND'S FRONTLINE SUMMIT ZAMBIA

PROPOSED THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN SMITH AND FRONTLINE SHOULD BE ONLY AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OTHER FRONTLINE STATES. THIS DECISION DOES NOT TIE THE HANDS OF PATRIOTIC FRONT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT KAUNDA WAS RELAXED AND JOVIAL DURING HIS THIRTY MINUTE MEETING WITH THE PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS. AFTER A BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT WHICH STRESSED THE NEED FOR ZAMBIAN VIGILANCE IN FACE OF RACIST THREATS AND ASSURANCE THAT ZAMBIAN BLOOD HAD NOT BEEN SPILLED IN VAIN IN FURTHERING LIBERATION STRUGGLE, HE THEN ASKED FOR QUESTIONS. --KAUNDA WELCOMED OTHER CANDIDATES WHO WISHED TO COMPETE WITH HIM FOR THE PRESIDENCY. THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO SO. PEOPLE WHO WISH TO OPPOSE ANY CHALLENGE TO THE PRESIDENT ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. --THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION WERE THE DESIRE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND KAUNDA HAD BEEN CONVINCED. THEY WERE LONG STANDING AND HAD NOT BEEN DESIGNED TO EXCLUDE COMPETITION FOR THE UNIP PRESIDENCY. KAUNDA SAID KAPWEPWE IS DEFINITELY EXCLUDED UNDER THE NEW FIVE YEAR MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NKUMBULA WOULD STILL BE ELIGIBLE UNDER THE NEW RULES. --KAUNDA RECOGNIZED THERE IS A NEED TO TIGHTEN UP THE LEADERSHIP CODE. ZAMBIA SHOULD ADOPT AMERICAN EXAMPLE WHEREBY LEADERS MUST MAKE PUBLIC THEIR SOURCES OF WEALTH. ANY MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO CLEARLY WAS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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VIOLATION OF THE LEADERSHIP CODE WILL BE PUNISHED. --KAUNDA SAID HE HAD SEEN REPORTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INDICATING THAT KAPWEPWE MIGHT PROMOTE VIOLENCE DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD. THIS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. --KAUNDA INDICATED THAT IN GOVERNING ZAMBIA HE WAS REQUIRED TO PERFORM A BALANCING ACT. THIS, HE SAID, IS NOT UNIQUE TO ZAMBIA. ALL COUNTRIES ARE REQUIRED TO DO SO. BALANCING ACT IN ZAMBIA REQUIRED REGIONAL AND ETHNIC REPRESENTATION IN THE CABINET AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE. --THERE IS AMPLE JUSTIFICATION TO POSTPONE GENERAL ELECTIONS, GIVEN THE WAR SITUATION CONFRONTING ZAMBIA. DECISION NOT TO POSTPONE HAD BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE OF KAUNDA'S CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLE AND ALSO BECAUSE OF HIS AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY. --KAUNDA SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT THE CHARGE THAT WILSON KNEW OF OIL SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS WHEN HE WAS PRIME MINISTER AND CHOSE TO DO NOTHING. HE, KAUNDA, KNEW THAT WILSON HAD TOLD SMITH AT THE TIME OF UDI THAT IF YOU CAN LAST 4 MONTHS YOU ARE HOME FREE. THIS WAS PART OF WILSON'S STRATEGY OF SUPPORT FOR SMITH WHICH INCLUDED HIS STATEMENT THAT ARMED FORCE WOULD NOT BE USED TO PUT DOWN THE RHODESIAN REBELLION. KAUNDA SAID HE CHOSE NOT TO REGARD THIS AS

A WHITE AGAINST BLACK CONSPIRACY; RATHER, HE LOOKED AT IT
IN TERMS OF A CONFLICT OF IDEOLOGIES.
--ZAMBIA HAS RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT RHODESIA WILL ATTACK
ZAMBIA IN RETALIATION FOR THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE RHODESIAN
VISCOUNT. BRITISH HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THIS THREAT AND
HAVE BEEN TOLD THEY WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH AN
ATTACK. PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE ARE FIGHTING SMITH, NOT THE
PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA. THE PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY FREEDOM
FIGHTERS WHO WERE AWARE THAT THESE FLIGHTS WERE USED TO
TRANSPORT AMMUNITION AND MILITARY SUPPLIES.
--ZAMBIA CANNOT COUNT ON OAU MILITARY SUPPORT. OAU STATES
ARE AS WEAK AND AS STRONG AS ZAMBIA. THOSE WITH MILITARY
STRENGTH ARE TIED DOWN WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. ON THE

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OTHER HAND RHODESIA IS SEEKING TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE SOUTHERN AFRICA CONFLICT. ZAMBIA IS RESISTING DOING SO BUT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CALL FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT. --FRONTLINE STATES HAD AGREED AT LUSAKA SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 1 AND 2 THAT FRONTLINE STATES SHOULD NOT HAVE CONTACTS WITH SMITH UNLESS OTHER FRONTLINE STATES WERE ADVISED IN ADVANCE. IN FACT, ZAMBIA HAD PROPOSED THIS AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THIS DECISION IS NOT BINDING ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. IF IT APPEARS THAT SMITH IS SERIOUS IN HIS DESIRE TO TURN OVER POWER, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR ZAMBIA TO ENTER INTO CONTACT WITH HIM. HOWEVER, THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE OTHER FRONTLINE STATES. KAUNDA RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS BETWEEN VARIOUS FRONTLINE STATES. THIS IS COMPLETELY NORMAL; THERE ARE BOUND TO BE DIFFERENCES. END UNCLASSIFIED. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL COMMENT: THE THRUST OF KAUNDA'S PRESENTATION FOLLOWED WELL WORN PATHS. HOWEVER, HIS COMMENT THAT IT WAS ZAMBIA WHICH HAD PROPOSED AT THE FRONTLINE SUMMIT A BAN ON FRONTLINE STATE CONTACT WITH SMITH, UNLESS THERE HAD BEEN PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH OTHER FRONTLINE STATES, IS NEW. IT SHOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE READ AS A FURTHER EFFORT TO DAMPEN DOWN SPECULATION ABOUT DIVISIONS AMONG THE FRONTLINE STATES. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, MOVE AWAY FROM HIS POSITION THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT COULD CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS WITH SMITH AS IT WISHED. HIS CONFIRMATION THAT FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAD SHOT DOWN THE VISCOUNT AND HIS JUSTIFICATION OF THEIR HAVING DONE SO IS NOT HELPFUL IN DISSUADING THE RHODESIANS FROM RETALIATING. KAPWEPWE CAME THROUGH KAUNDA'S REMARKS AS THE ONE PERSON WHO HAD SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE TO REPRESENT A THREAT TO KAUNDA. HIS WARNING THAT VIOLENCE PROVOKED BY KAPWEPWE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IS A HARBINGER OF WHAT THE NEAR FUTURE MAY HOLD. CLINGERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA03148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780366-0768
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780989/aaaacvly.tel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 91401054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1505375
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIA: PRESIDENT KAUNDA PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 8. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, RH, US, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91401054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014